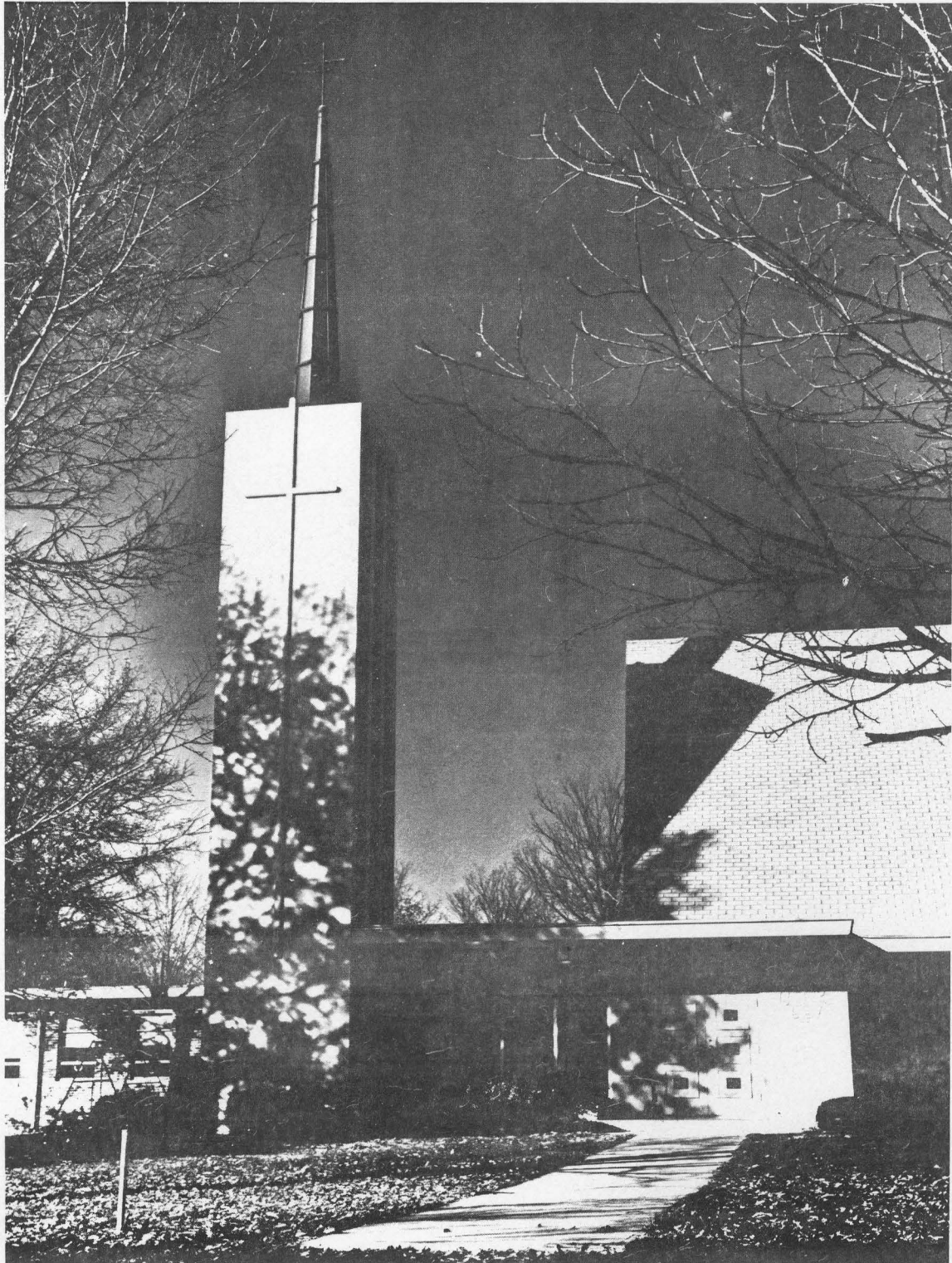
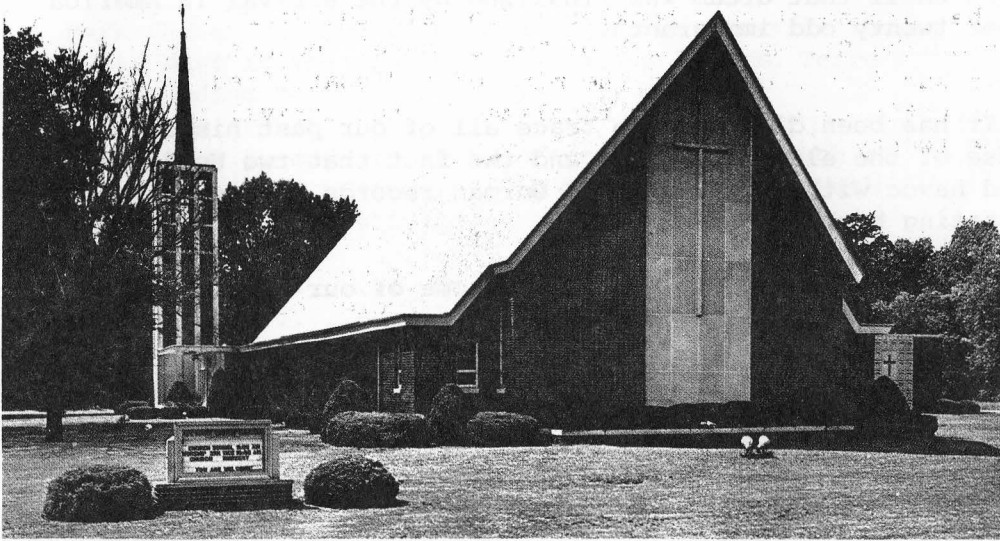


ST. MARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA



HISTORY OF
ST. MARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA



Kenneth Hayden, Pastor

CHURCH OFFICE AND PASTOR'S STUDY

475 South Fruitridge

Terre Haute, Indiana

PREFACE

The purpose of this booklet is to tell the story of the growth of the St. Mark Church of Terre Haute, Indiana, from the time it was just a dream in the mind of a dissatisfied German citizen until that dream was finalized by the arrival in America of some twenty odd immigrants.

It has been difficult to trace all of our past history because of the element of time and the fact that two World Wars played havoc with so many of the German records because of the devastating bombing and air raids.

We still hope to get answers to some of our questions that are as yet unanswered.

However, even though we have checked many church records, including those of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, we are handicapped by the fact the early records of that church and our three merged churches are all written or printed in German. Until and when we get these translated into English this booklet will have to suffice.

For all those who have helped both in translating and in writing and answering correspondence we wish to express our appreciation. Also we thank the foreign aid, such as North German Lloyd Steam Ship Lines, the National Maritime Museum of Greenwich, England, the Librarian of Ditzum, Germany, and the Bremen Steamship Lines.

May we also express our thanks to the National Archives and Records Service of Washington, D.C.

The History Committee
St. Mark Church
Terre Haute, Indiana

HISTORY OF

ST. MARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

In this year of 1976 our Country is celebrating its Bi-Centennial 1776-1976. People, organizations, schools, lodges, churches, etc., have been asked to participate in some way or another in this once in-a-life-time event.

St. Mark Church decided to have a committee to write the history of its part in the growth of religious life in Terre Haute and surrounding community.

This committee is made up of two representatives each of the three churches which merged in 1956 to form the St. Mark Church, this committee is as follows:

Bethany.....Wilbert & Dorothea Cottrell
St. Paul.....Richard & Imogene Wodicka
Zion.....Maurice & Lilly Burke

The History of St. Mark United Church of Christ is researched and compiled by the above committee in order...

to commemorate the

BI-CENTENNIAL OF OUR COUNTRY 1776-1976

Rev. Kenneth Hayden, Pastor

THE BRUNO J. BOELSUMS FAMILY

The Bruno J. Boelsums family played the most important part in founding of the first German Church in Terre Haute, Indiana - therefore, we must know something of this family.

Bruno J. Boelsums, together with his family of three sons and three daughters lived just outside of the town of Ditzum, Germany. This town is in the Province of Hannover in northwestern Germany and in the county or district of Ostfriesland (Eastfriesland). It is situated on the south and west bank of the Ems River and some five or six miles south and east of Emden, Germany. Ditzum was and still is a town where many natives specialized in making of brick, this skill they put to use in the town of Terre Haute soon after their arrival here.

No doubt the whole of western Europe suffered from the repercussions of the then recent French Revolution which had turned into a "Reign of Terror" and also from the Napoleonic Wars. Bruno Boelsums was twenty-five years old when the great Napoleon met his "Waterloo" in 1815 at the hands of the English General, Wellington and the German General Blucher.

Surely, the political, economic, and religious turmoil coupled with the fact that some of Bruno's German neighbors had settled in the town of Terre Haute just a few years before had much influence in making up his decision to go to America.

Bruno Boelsums and his family belonged to the German Reformed Church and were devout church workers. This religious background was of much help in helping to establish a new church in their new home here in America.

Bruno Boelsums decided to sail to America with his wife and three sons to set up a new home and return to Germany later to bring back his three daughters on his return trip.

The Bremen Liner, "The Pauline" captained by Friedrich G. Schelling, arrived at the port of New York on Saturday October 9, 1841. The manifest or list of passengers turned in by the ship's captain lists three Boelsums, Bruno, Aalderk and Hermann (age 49, 21, 13 respectively).

According to a Souvenir Booklet put out in 1909 by the Zion Church, formerly of 8th & Ohio Streets, the ship must have met with rough seas and trouble, because it says Bruno "lost his possessions and wife at sea". Also no mention is made of the third son, John, for some reason or other. However, John did arrive in Terre Haute and became an ardent church worker and accumulated some wealth according to his will of June 1859 drawn up by his brother-in-law, Arend H. Luken.

Although Terre Haute was not settled until 1816, the same year Indiana became a State, it was not until fourteen years later in 1830 that the first Germans arrived in our vicinity - that year six German families came to Terre Haute. It was with these people that Bruno and his sons worked and made brick with which to build their homes.

In 1846 Bruno Boelsums returned to his home in Ditzum, Germany to bring back with him to America his three daughters. He found that they had all married, two of them Lutheran School teachers.

After much discussion, pro and con, and having appealed through local newspaper twenty-two persons, including the three daughters and their husbands, joined Bruno on his return trip to America.

According to the Zion Church Souvenir booklet, mentioned before, the return trip was made on the "Good Ship, Victoria" and that it arrived a little before Christmas, 1846. It also states that it was a "long and dangerous trip" which is somewhat substantiated by the report from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. that the manifest or list of passengers of the Ship "Victoria" is truncated or damaged probably by water and part of the list seems to be lost. So, for some reason or other, the list turned in by Captain R.T. Hartshune of the Victoria does not list many of the Germans who came to Terre Haute on this trip - that includes the Boelsums, Lukens, Leemhuis, etc.

Notation might be made here that there was another ship "Victoria" arriving earlier, Sept. 18, 1846 under Captain E. Elisha Morgan but he does not list any of the above families. This ship was a 868 ton vessel while Captain Hartshune's vessel was listed at 601 ton displacement ship. We feel that the families mentioned above arrived on the latter ship which came into port of New York on Monday, October 12, 1846.

Quoting from the Old Zion Church Souvenir Booklet page nine (9) and translated from German into English, we read, "If there is any one place more than any other to cause expression of our religious feelings it is the high sea. Encouraged by the Captain of their ship the "Victoria" the two schoolmasters often led worship services. During the long and dangerous journey these persons also passed a resolution that in their new home they would establish German worship services to help them in their Christian living". Thus the German Church of Terre Haute was in reality set up or established on the Atlantic Ocean and on board to "Good Ship, Victoria". One of these leaders was the husband of one of Bruno's REformed daughters, Christine M. Boelsums who had married Arend Hauen Luken. Schoolmaster Luken, who later became an ordained minister in the Lutheran faith, became the first minister or pastor of a United Church set up in Terre Haute,

One reason for the establishment of one church for the Terre Haute community of Germans was the cordial relationship between the Reform and Lutheran groups. It might be pointed out here that some of the Germans were of the Evangelical faith and this reflects in the name chosen by the group for their newly established church.

Soon after the arrival of the twenty-three Germans in Terre Haute shortly before Christmas they invited the Germans already in Terre Haute to join with them in holding Christmas Worship services. These services were led by the schoolmaster Arend H. Luken. Those attending this service decided to hold religious services each Sunday in the Town Hayl until a suitable building could be erected. Back in Tere Haute's early days it seems that the Town Hall was used for a variety of purposes as well as the regular town or business meetings.

Because the German group was made up of Lutherans, Reformed and Evangelical faiths, the name chosen for the newly organized church was "United German Evangelical, Lutheran, and Reformed Church" of Terre Haute, Indiana, with Arend H. Luken as the first pastor.

In 1848 Pastor Luke drew up the first ordinances or rules. These formed the first church constitution and were agreed to by the new congregation. A record of Luken's services are recorded in the oldest of the available church books now in possession of the Immanuel Lutheran Church at Sixth & One-half and Poplar Streets.

In the Fall of 1851 the Reverend Mr. Kuester assumed charge and served the congregation for two years 1851-1853. In 1851 (November) under Rev. Kuester and because the congregation was seeking a suitable location for its new building and a need being felt for a more corporate body new rules were adopted that were more suitable to the needs of the congregation. The following persons, members of the congregation, subscribed to and signed these rules:

John Nikolas Sachs and wife
Aalderk E. Boelsums and wife Maria Christine
Ernest Friedrich Alterkruse and wife Louise
Richert U. Frerichs and wife Hiske
Henry Harting
Georg Feick
John Zimmermann
Simon Reese and wife Clise
Heinrich Pfleging and wif Johanna
Johannes Schwarz
Ernst Meiszel and wife Wilhelmine
John A. Sacks
Heinrich Pfleging, Jr.
Georg Stohr and wife Margarethe
John Preiszer

Plans for the erection of a church building were under consideration but before they were completed Rev. Kuester at the close of 1853 accepted a call from a congregation in Indianapolis.

His successor was the Reverend John F. Lautenschlager 1854-1856. Reverend Lautenschlager was the great-grandfather of Doctor Harley Miller Lautenschlager, Principal of the I.S.U. Laboratory School here in Terre Haute.

On October 1, 1854 a site for the new church home was bought by the Board of Trustees, Charles Seaman, Aalderk E. Boelsums and John G. Klump. The new site came to be known as 420 South 4th Street (east side) and was purchased from Osius Van Tassel for the sum of \$350.00 and the new church building was erected in 1855. However, soon after locating in their new home at 420 South 4th Street and after worshipping together since 1846 differences began to creep into worship ritual so after much serious prayer and consideration the congregation agreed it would be best if, because of a difference in doctrines, they would separate. So in October

of 1857 an evaluation of all properties was made and the figure of \$1,500.00 was arrived at. The Reformed Group paid the Lutheran group \$750.00 and remained at the 420 South 4th Street location while the Lutheran group bought one-half block north and on the west side of the street.

Up until this time the history of the Old Zion Church and the Immanuel Lutheran Church from the earliest date to 1858 is identical.



The Home of the Boelsums
located at the junction of the Vincennes
and Carlisle Roads which later became the
Prairieton and First respectively

THE LUTHERAN GROUP

The Lutheran Group after the division, organized January 25, 1858 and called themselves "The German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Terre Haute, Vigo County, Indiana". Later the name was changed to "Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church" and gradually came to be better known as the "Immanuel Lutheran Church".

The congregation adopted a constitution July 1, 1858. The first pastor of the re-organized group or congregation was Reverend H.W. Rinker. The first signers of the Constitution, hence the charter members of the congregation were:

H.W. Rinker, Pastor
Arend Hauen Luken
Ernst Meissel
Richard U. Frerichs
J.H. Luken
M H. Bergmann
Frederick Piepenbrink
William Bergmann
Oeje Ennen
Henry Gravemeyer

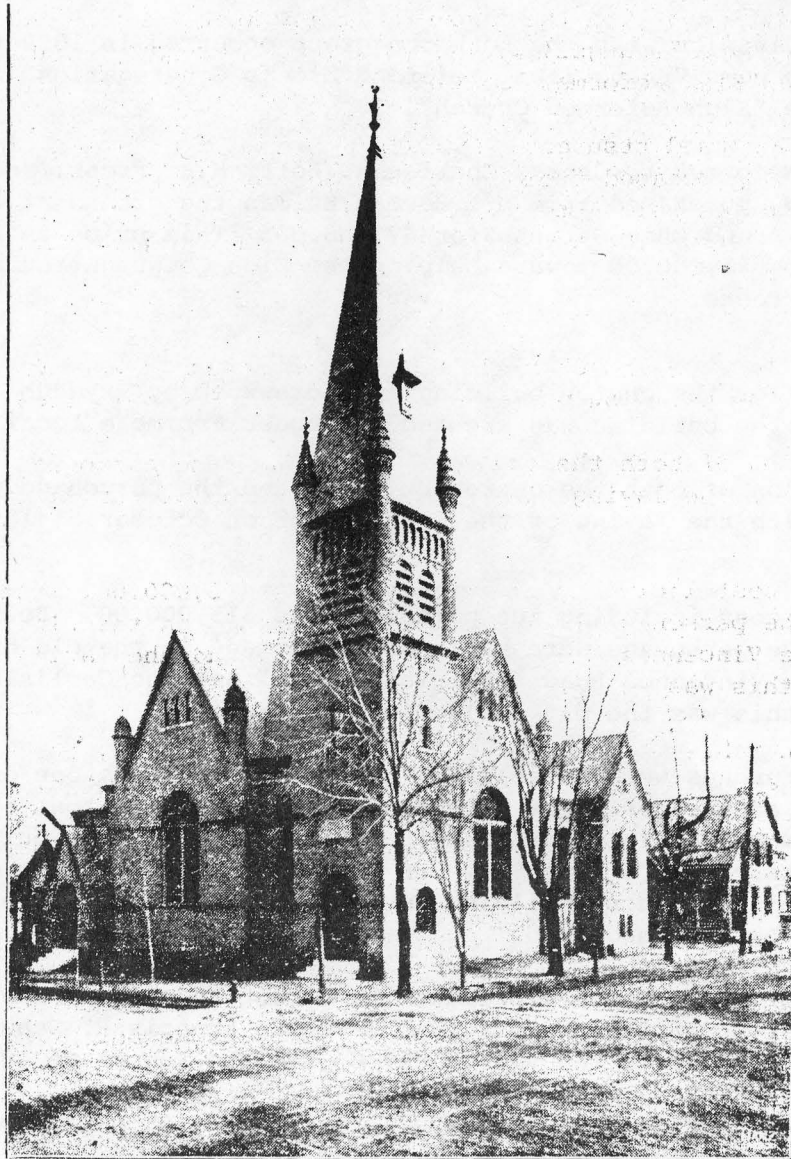
The first officers were:

Trustees: A.H. Luken, Richert U. Frerichs and Ernst Meissel
Deacons: Fred Piepenbrink, Matthew Bergmann

The Lutheran Group bought a tract of land on the Northwest corner of Fourth and Swan Streets, one-half block north of the 420 South 4th Street location and built a brick church 40 x 50 feet in size. This was in 1858. Besides church services the building also served as a center for Christian Day School taught by members of the Congregation.

Finally, in 1886 during the ministry of the Rev. Henry Katt, having outgrown the old building, the present Gothic structure at Sixth and One-half and Poplar Streets was erected and worship services are still being conducted in 1976 at the same location.

THE REFORMED GROUP



ZION REFORMED CHURCH

The Reformed Group also outgrew its old quarters at 420 South 4th Street. In 1888 the trustees of the old establishment were authorized to sell the property at 420 South 4th Street. The property was sold to the Hebrew Congregation for \$3,600.00, thus in about thirty-five years allowing for improvements and consider-

ing the fact that the town of Terre Haute was "marching southwards" the value of the property had more than doubled in value. Arrangements were made with the Hebrew Congregation to allow the Reformed Congregation to worship in its old home until new quarters were ready.

When the division with the Lutheran group occurred in 1858 the Reformed group chose the name "Evangelical Reformed Zion's Congregation" and later this became the "Zion Reformed Church".

The Zion Reformed trustees, Charles W. Hoff, H.S. Froeb, and H.S. Hoff, on June 18, 1890 purchased from Mr. Herman Hulman the ground at the southeast corner of Eighth and Ohio Streets for \$7,000.00. This price included a gift by Mr. Hulman of \$1,000.00 toward helping the Zion Congregation re-locate at 8th and Ohio Streets.

The plans for the church building were drawn up by Vrydagh and Sons local architects and the building was erected by August Fromme a local contractor.

Construction of both the church building and the parsonage was begun the Fall of 1890 with the laying of the cornerstone on October 5, 1890 which was on a Sunday.

The total cost including the parsonage was \$15,000.00. Both the church building and the parsonage were built of brick made in the old brickyard at the junction of the Vincennes Road (Prairieton Road) and the Carlisle Road (First Street Road), this was the old Boelsum's Brick Yard.

Mission churches were established by the Zion Church, one on North 14th Street and one at the northwest corner of 21st and Washington. The former was in 1883 but was closed in order to help in financing the new building at 8th and Ohio Streets. The Cottage Place at 21st and Washington was opened in a two-story elementary school building but was abandoned in 1913 when the building was demolished by a tornado.

The transition from the 420 South 4th Street address to the 8th and Ohio Streets site was under the pastorate of Reverend Francis R. Schwedes who served Zion Church a little over ten years, May 8, 1887 to August of 1897.

A pipe organ was installed in 1907, the Zion Congregation paying half and the Andrew Carnegie Foundation paying the other half.

A new Hammond organ was purchased in 1941 together with a set of chimes. This set of Mass (21) Cathedral chimes was placed in the church tower and after that Zion Church was called "The Church with the Tower of Chimes". New carpet was placed in the church, the interior redecorated and the exterior was finished with a brick stain of two colors.

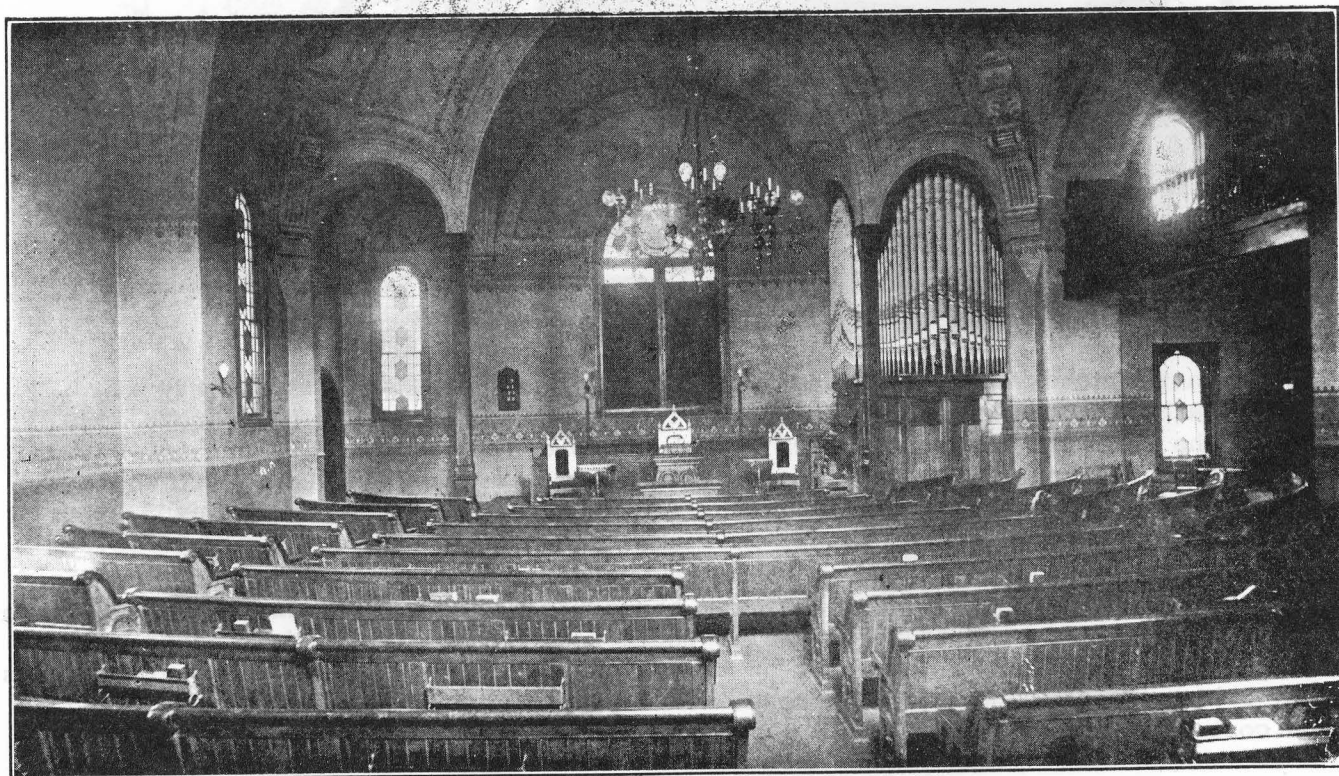
In 1908 the Zion Church celebrated its Golden Jubilee or Anniversary, 1858-1908, this was under the pastorate of Reverend John F. Winter. This celebration was on the 3rd Sunday in May, May 17, 1908. A very detailed Souvenir Booklet, The

Historical Souvenir, was published, mostly in German with some English, with many pictures of pastors, church officials, and founders of the original Church - it is on this publication that the history committee was depended for much of the information contained in this study.

In 1951 Zion Church celebrated its 60th Anniversary - this was 60 years from the dedication of the Zion Church Building at 8th and Ohio Streets - August 30, 1891 another commorative booklet was published under the pastorate of Rev. Harvey S. Shue. Reverend Shue was the last pastor of the Zion Congregation as it was during his pastorate that a merger of Zion and the two other churches, Bethany and St. Paul, was agreed upon. Since it was agreed by the three churches that the present pastors would terminate their services upon merger Reverend Shue accepted a call from Lancaster, Pa. and interim ministers carried on until the merger was completed and the new minister, Reverend Glenn O. Martensen was called to St. Mark Church.

The Zion Church Building and the parsonage to the south were sold in May, 1960, and demolished by wrecking crews to make way for the new home of Allen and Steen.

Zion Reformed Church



INNERE ANSICHT DER KIRCHE.

THE ST. PAUL CHURCH



In the same year, 1887, that the Reformed group sold their property at 420 South 4th Street, another group mostly of Evangelical leanings, broke away from the Immanuel Lutheran Church at 6th and one-half and Poplar Streets, because of differences of ritual and opinion. It also seems that the Rev. Katt would not allow any members to belong to any Fraternal order.

This group, some of whom were: the Roethels, Ellers, Ahrens, etc. organized the St. Paul Church in 1887. At first the group met in a building on Walnut Street and later in one on 14th Street while their new church building was being made ready. The new church was built on the northeast corner of 12th and Eagle Streets by Schlup and Holthaus, contractors. This was in 1900. The lot was purchased at a cost of \$4,000.00.

The church organized as "The German Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church" elected its first elders: Andrew Frerichs, John T. Hauer, Fred Paes, C. Schneider, Henry Elbrecht, Martin Graff and John H. Schroeder.

The constitution and by-laws were adopted March 23, 1890.

April 28, 1890 the congregation organized permanently by electing a full council as follows:

Elders: Fred Paes, John Harman, H. Mansholt, Henry Elbrecht, and Henry Schroeder.

Deacons: John H. Schroeder, Otto Hensgen, and Herman Guelle.

Trustees: Herman VanEnte, Phil Spangler and Andrew Frerichs.

The first regular officers of the congregation were:

President.....Andrew Frerichs
Vice-President.....Herman Guelle
SecretaryOtto Hensgen
Secretary of Finances.....**John H. Schroeder**
Treasurer.....Henry Schroeder

The pastors of the St. Paul Church were:

1887-1888 - Rev. Korn
1888-1895 - Rev. Ernest Weise
1895-1899 - Rev. Erich Becker
1899-1904 - Rev. C.A.J. Cramer
1904-1911 - Rev. Fontaine
1911-1916 - Rev. Probst
1916-1918 - Rev. Dr. Frederich
1918 - Rev. Reinhardt
1918-1923 - Rev. Hansen
1923-1926 - Rev. H.H. Peters
1926-1927 - Rev. Buehler
1928-1929 - Rev. Springer
1929-1935 - Rev. C.A. Hofmann
1936-1953 - Rev. Raymond E. Vitz
1953-1956 - Rev. Paul G. Frankenfeld

Reverend Frankenfeld assisted Rev. Glenn O. Martenden for about three months after the latter arrived in Terre Haute to assume the pastorate of the new merged Church.

Reverend Windhorst conducted services also after the departure of the Reverend Vitz. He also supplied at the Zion Church after the Reverend Shue left.

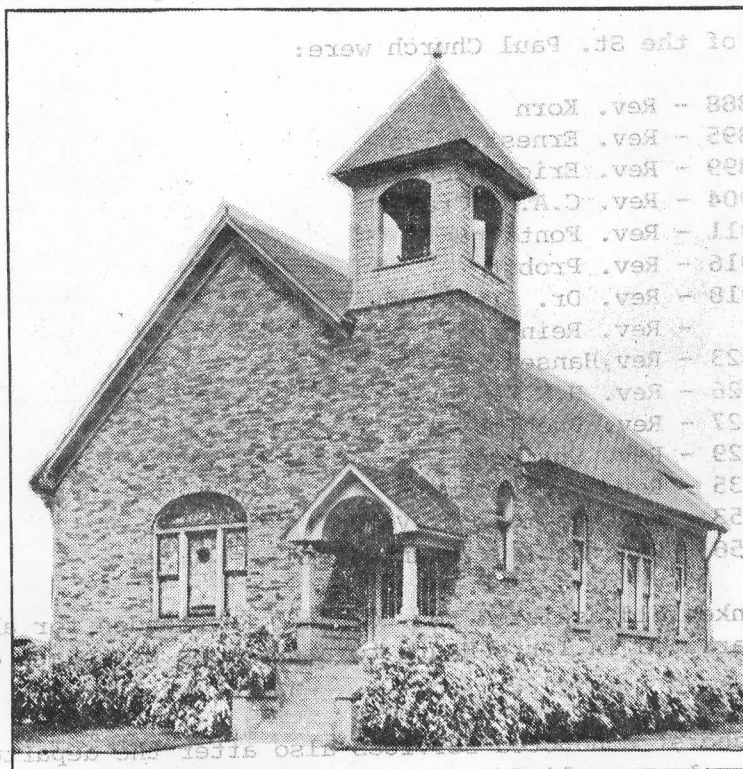
After St. Paul congregation merged with the other two churches the property, both the church building and the parsonage, was sold on January 2, 1958 for \$20,000.00.

THE BETHANY CHURCH April 28, 1890 the congregation was permanently by electing a full council as follows:

Elders: Fred Pass, John Harman, H. Marsholt, Henry Elbrecht, and Henry Schroeder.
 Deacons: John H. Schroeder, Otto Hensgen, and Herman Guelie.
 Trustees: Herman VanHate, Phil Guelie, and Andrew Frerichs.

Bethany Evangelical and Reformed Church

N. 37th St., Edgewood Place
 TERRE HAUTE, IND.



The pastors of the St. Paul Church were:

1897-1898 - Rev. Korn
 1898-1899 - Rev. Ernest
 1899-1900 - Rev. Ernest
 1900-1901 - Rev. C.A.
 1901-1902 - Rev. Font
 1902-1903 - Rev. Prop
 1903-1904 - Rev. Dr.
 1904-1905 - Rev. Rein
 1905-1906 - Rev. Hans
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 2021-2022 - Rev. Hans
 2022-2023 - Rev. Hans
 2023-2024 - Rev. Hans
 2024-2025 - Rev. Hans

Reverend Frank C. Witthoff after the latter Church.

Reverend Witthoff also after the departure of the Reverend Vitz. He also supplied at the Zion Church after the Reverend Shue left.

After St. Paul congregation merged with the other two churches the property, both the church building and the parsonage, was sold on January 2, 1928 for \$20,000.00.

The Bethany Reformed Church was organized on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 28, 1912. However, the work toward establishing the Bethany Church had been started by the Reverend Frank C. Witthoff as early as October of 1911. Reverend Witthoff became the first pastor of the newly formed congregation.

A location at the northeast corner of 37th and Tippecanoe was chosen and the amount paid for the ground was \$617.20 and with a loan from the Board of Home Missions a contract was let to Mr. Carl Waldbieser, Sr. for the erection of the new building at cost of \$3,400.00.

Ground-breaking ceremonies were held on December 3, 1913. The religious ceremony on that memorable day was conducted by the Reverend Ewald Sommerlatte of the Zion Reformed church. Appropriate remarks were made by Reverend Witthoff, with Reverend Sommerlatte pronouncing the benediction.

Services were first held in Dobb's Hall until the new building could be made available.

It is believed that due to the growth of the city to the east and north that it would be better, since the auto was still pretty much in its infancy and paved streets were practically non-existent, that a church of the Reformed denomination was needed in that locality. It is true that we had a very efficient and economical means of transportation in the street car but there was still a need for a more convenient church than going downtown to the Zion Church at 8th and Ohio Streets.

Much volunteer help was offered as brick had to be hauled from the Fruitridge switch of the Vandalia Railroad (now the Penn-Central Railroad). This was done by volunteer farmer friends and members of the congregation (20,000 brick were needed for the new structure). A very nice cornerston, stuiably lettered, was given by H.E. Hollis of the Terre Haute Monument Company. A 40-inch bell in the tower was given by the Reverend Witthoff in memory of Mrs. M.A. Witthoff.

Dedication Day was Sunday June 28, 1914 with the Reverend Witthoff and the Reverend H.S. Christman participating. It is interesting to note that the Reverend Frank C. Witthoff was appointed as a "supply" pastor but stayed ten (10) years from 1911-1921.

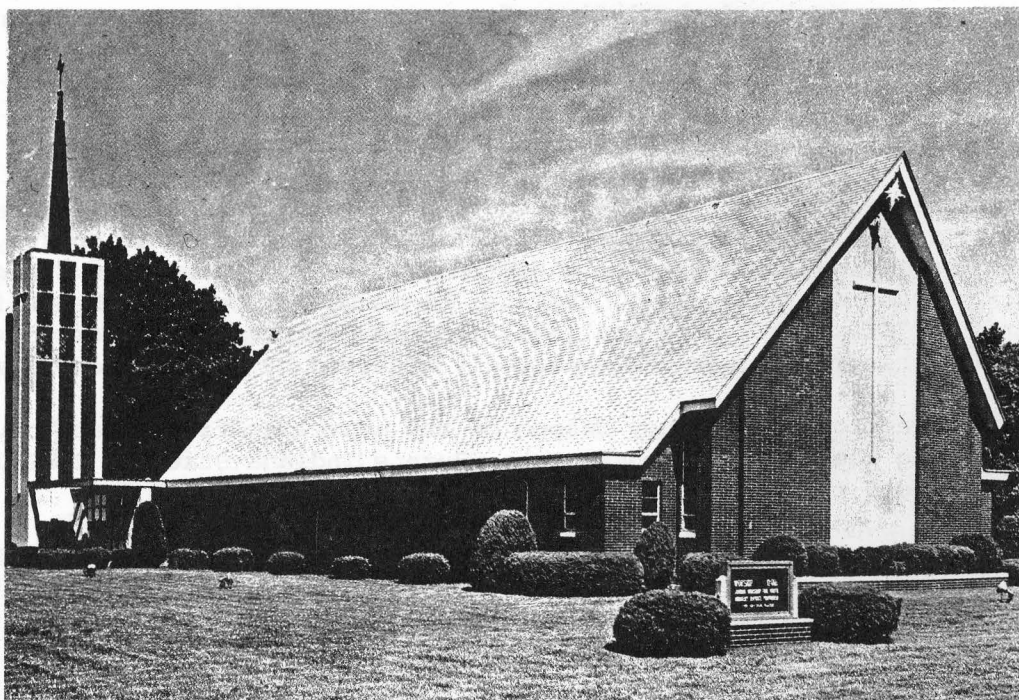
Reverend Henry Miller relieved the Reverend Frank C. Witthoff when the latter left and served the Bethany Congregation from 1921-1924. These were trying years during the post World War I period but conditions were gradually getting better and soon the Congregation was able to add to its furnishings to complete the original plans that had been interrupted by the War.

In 1924 a new pastor whose winning ways and personality were to be a great influence to the Bethany people took charge of the congregation. Reverend W.E. Huckeriede took a deep interest in the Church that was his pride for twenty long years or from 1924-1944. During his long pastorate in a comparative new congregation, which was organized in 1912, many new members were added to the Church and the Church prospered and had much influence on the religious life in the central-east side of town. However, Reverend Huckeriede's plans for Bethany Church were somewhat interrupted by World War II and later by our entrance after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Reverend J.R. Bishop succeeded Reverend Huckeriede as pastor and in turn was followed by Reverend T.M. Haeefe. With World War II over the country began to change from war production to peaceful pursuits and in the interim there were many layoffs during the change. This, of course, not only affected the economy of the country in general but had its effect on the churches.

Reverend Haefele was followed by the Reverend F.A. Meusch who in turn was followed by the Reverend Earl S. Cummings. As a result of the merger of the Evangelical and the Reformed congregations on a national scale in 1934 the Bethany and the St. Paul Congregations began to think of a possible merger later on. Because of the rumors that there might be a possible merger it was decided to call a student pastor instead of a regular minister.

In July of 1955 a student pastor, Duane Yegerlehner, came to Bethany Church and served until October 1, of the same year. After the departure of Student pastor Yegerlehner, other student pastors came from Eden Seminary until a merger not only with the St. Paul Church, but also with the Zion Church, was completed - this merger came about in the week of April 1956.



ST. MARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MERGER

OF

BETHANY, ST. PAUL & ZION CHURCHES

One person who, no doubt, was instrumental in beginning the move that resulted in the final merger of the above three churches was the Pastor who had the honor of serving the St. Paul Church longer than any of its other pastors, the Reverend Raymond E. Vitz - who served 17 years 1936-1953.

Finally, during the week of April 15, 1956, the three churches, Bethany, St. Paul, and Zion voted on whether a merger was agreeable to all concerned. The result of the voting at each individual church showed:

Bethany.....	90% yes	10% no
St. Paul.....	94% yes	6% no
Zion.....	86% yes	14% no

The voting being overwhelmingly in favor of merging the three churches it was decided to engage the services of a legal advisor so the firm of Marshall, Batman, & Day was chosen - we were fortunate to have Dr. Harry W. Bredeweg, of the Indiana Conference Office a member of our church during the merger process.

A committee was appointed consisting of two members from each church, namely:

Bethany.....Wilbert C. Cottrell & Lyman Brown
St. Paul.....Herman Hemmrich & Jack Marshall
Zion.....George Mansholt & Maurice Burke

This committee was appointed on Wednesday, May 9, 1956 and after several lengthy meetings submitted this report: "Be it hereby resolved that on July 29, 1956, a new congregation, comprised of the Bethany, St. Paul, and Zion Evangelical and Reformed Churches of Terre Haute, Indiana, be formed and established which shall be known as "St. Mark Evangelical and Reformed Church". At a meeting held on July 29, 1956 this report was wholeheartedly accepted by the new Congregation.

Under the direction of Attorney Swango of the above law firm, statutory procedure according the Church Union Statute, Burn's Indiana Statutes 25-2801 et seq." We proceeded to organize the new Church.

A Provisional Board was set up at a meeting immediately which nominated the following officers:

Elders:

Richard Gemmecke
Herman Hemmrich
Kenneth Jones
George Mansholt
Walter Stutz
Edward Wodicka

Deacons:

A.C. Bosshardt
Raymond Burkhardt
F.L. Faust
Robert Fiers
Conrad Gemmecke, Jr.
Jack Marshall
Russell Peterson
Raymond Scherick

Trustees:

Wilbur Bosecker
Maurice Burke
Wilbert Cottrell

All these persons had been approached and had indicated a willingness to serve if elected, The above board was given unanimous approval. It is important to remember that there had been a suggestion made to have each individual church represented until after we could all become one family and acquainted with each other.

It had also been agreed to before merger that all three pastors would resign so that the new congregation would feel free to call a new pastor.

After much consideration and guided Dr. Bredeweg, the services of Glenn O. Martensen of Saffington, Missouri, were contracted for. Installation services were held at Zion Church on Sunday, March 3, 1957, at the morning service.

Interim Officers were chosen as follows:

PresidentJack Marshall
Vice-President.....Richard Gemmecke
SecretaryJames Baker
Treasurer.....Mae Roberts

Permanent Officers were chosen later:

President.....Jack Marshall
Vice-President.....Maurice Burke
Secretary.....Richard Gemmecke
Treasurer.....Wilbur Boseker

The Consistory appointed Maurice Burke as Chairman of a committee to report on a finance plan. After much study the committee recommended that the services of the American Campaign Services, Inc., of Kansas City, Missouri be engaged. The consistory approved the plan and Mr. Frank B. Creighton and Mr. Seward Foote directed the bond drive. Cost to St. Mark Church \$2,700.00.

First bond sales campaign (Series I) was for \$110,000.00 on May 8-26, 1958, and the second (series II) was for \$45,000.00 in May 1959.

The St. Mark Church was incorporated in early May 1956 before the bond campaign began. Form C-1, Feb. 23, 1954 form for use by Indiana Churches, religious societies and religious organizations was properly executed and sent to the Secretary of State of the State of Indiana.

A committee was appointed to draw up a new Constitution for the newly formed St. Mark Church. The committee was made up of two members of each of the three merged churches, namely:

BethanyMrs. Mae Roberts & Mrs. Berry
St. Paul.....James Baker & Russell Peterson
Zion.....John (Dick) White & Maurice Burke

With the aid of Dr. Harry W. Bredeweg a constitution following the prescribed form for the "Evangelical and Reformed Congregation" was drawn up and submitted to Dr. Bredeweg for his suggestions and approval.

At a special meeting of the St. Mark Congregation held at the Zion Church on Sunday evening, December 2, 1956, with the President of the Congregation, Jack Marshall presiding, the Constitution was read by the Secretary, Richard Gemmecke, and after a few changes were suggested, a motion was made by Dick Wodicka and seconded by Joe Wools that the Constitution as amended be adopted. The motion was carried. Sixty-one members were present.

This Constitution was revised on June 30, 1964 to conform to the new merger of July 8, 1960 of the Evangelical and Reformed Churches with the ongregational Christian Churches resulting in the adoption of the name "United Church of Christ".

At a special meeting of the Congregation Sunday, September 21, 1975, the Constitution with changes made by a committee, consisting of Ann Blair, Bob Purcell, Maurice Burke, and Rev. Hayden was approved by the members of the congregation.

A location committee was appointed to choose a new site for the merged church - the committee:

Bethany.....Lyman Brown & Ray Sherich
St. Paul.....Wilbur Boseker & Richard Wodicka
ZionJeff Miller, Sr. & George Mansholt

After trying to get several sites the present location was decided upon and approved by the Congregation. The "pony-ride" Williams property was purchased for \$6,500.00 and additional land on south to Hudson Avenue was purchased from Tony Hulman (Newlin-Johnson) for \$10,000.00. On October 19th, 1957 thirty (30) volunteers met at the new site to clean it up - except the old house. All together the site contained 3½ acres.

On October 15, 1957 we engaged the services of an architect, Lester W. Routh & Associates of Vincennes to draw up plans for the new church building.

Glenn W. North Construction Company was the successful bidder and was awarded the contract - it might be said that Mr. North was extremely cooperative and made many helpful suggestions.

The Building Committee consisted of:

Bethany.....Dorothea Cottrell & Joe Wools
St. Paul.....Herman Hemmrich
Zion.....M.O. Miller, Chairman & Louise Lessmann

The building committee enlisted many members and other committees in recommending changes and interior planning also with the Furnishings Committee as to type of pews, altar, lighting, etc.

Ground-breaking ceremonies were held on Wednesday, August 27, 1958, with the corner-stone ceremonies on Sunday, November 9, 1958. Included in the contents of the corner-stone were pictures of the three merged churches, Constitution & By-Laws, a New Testament, copies of the Tydings, membership list, etc.

Reverend Glenn O. Martensen of Saffington, Missouri became the first pastor of St. Mark's Church and was a very important cog in the machinery in helping to build, finance, and equip the new church building. Without his guidance the task would have been very difficult.

Reverend Martense remained with us from March 1957 until early 1965 at which time he was succeeded in July 1965 by the Reverend Maurice H. LeFevre who came to us from the First United Church of Christ, Plymouth, Indiana. Reverend LeFevre was a native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Reverend Kenneth Hayden followed Reverend LeFevre, coming to us in March 1973 and is the pastor at the time of the celebration of our country's Bi-Centennial in which our church is participating by publishing our church's history and the installation of a flag pole and flag-raising ceremony.

Also to celebrate we are in the process of financing and building a new kitchen and fellowship hall.

LIST OF PASTORS

The United German Evangelical, Lutheran and Reformed Church

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|----------|-----------|
| 1. | Arend H. Luken | Lutheran | 1845-1851 |
| 2. | Rev. Mr. Kuester | " | 1851-1853 |
| 3. | Rev. John F. Lautenschlager | " | 1853-1856 |
| 4. | Rev. G. Becker | Reformed | 1856-1857 |
| 5. | Rev. F. W. Steffens | " | 1857-1859 |

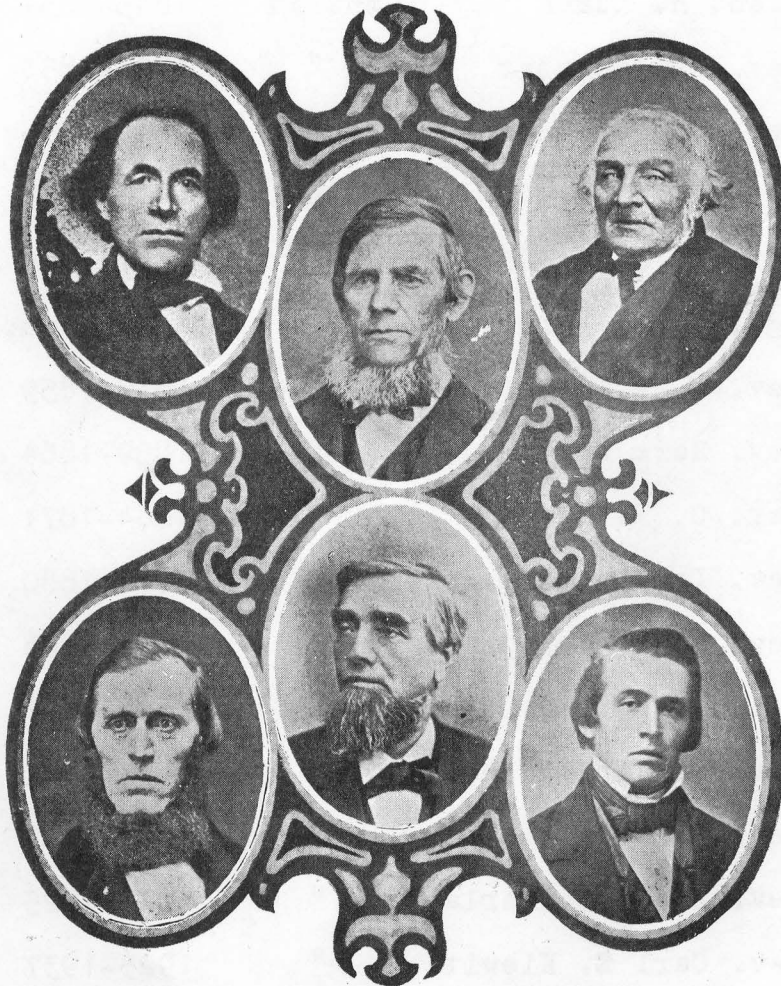
The German Evangelical Reformed Zion Congregation - Jan. 1, 1858

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|----------|-----------|
| 6. | Rev. F. W. Steffens | Reformed | 1857-1859 |
| 7. | Rev. Herm Korthener | " | 1859-1864 |
| 8. | Rev. C. T. Martin | " | 1864-1871 |
| 9. | Rev. Louis Praikschatis | " | 1872-1880 |
| 10. | Rev. W. F. Horstmeier | " | 1881-1886 |
| 11. | Rev. Francis R. Schwedes | " | 1887-1897 |
| 12. | Rev. Richard A. Most | " | 1897-1901 |
| 13. | Rev. John F. Winter | " | 1901-1908 |
| 14. | Rev. Ewald Sommerlatte | " | 1909-1925 |
| 15. | Rev. Carl E. Kiewit | " | 1925-1937 |
| 16. | Rev. William C. Feller | " | 1938-1943 |
| 17. | Rev. Franz Paul Puhlmann | " | 1943-1947 |
| 18. | Rev. Harvey S. Shue | " | 1948-1956 |

Interim minister until merger - Rev. Paul G. Frankenfeld

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|--------|-----------|
| 19. | Rev. Glenn O. Martensen | E & R | 1957-1965 |
| 20. | Rev. Maurice H. LeFevre | " | 1965-1973 |
| 21. | Rev. Kenneth Hayden | U.C.C. | 1973 - |

The First Consistory of the
Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church 1858



DER ERSTE KIRCHENRAT.

Aelteste:	BOELSUMS,	ASCHERMANN,	PFLEGING.
Vorsteher:	ALTEKRUSE,	SHALEY,	REINHARD.
Trustees:	SHALEY,	ALTEKRUSE,	PFLEGING.

Aalderk E. Boelsums

son of

Bruno J. Boelsums had three children born to him and his wife, Maria Christina (nee, Scheele): Maria (Mary) C. Boelsums; Wilhelmina Caroline Boelsums and John Boelsums.

Maria (Mary) C. Boelsums was born in 1857 in Terre Haute, Indiana and married Maurice (Mark) Schwartz in 1873. He was born in Bavaria, Germany and after arriving in America, enlisted in the Union Army. They made their home in Terre Haute living in the old Boelsums home at the Junction of Vincennes and Carlisle Roads, (First St. & Prairie-ton Road) which later became 1616 South First Street.

Here in the old Boelsums home, the following children were born:

Aalderk (Aleck) Henry Schwartz	- Nov. 12, 1873
Christina Louise Schwartz	- Aug. 17, 1875
John Frederick Schwartz	- Mar. 1, 1877
Clara Wilhelmina (died at 14 mo)	Jan. 16, 1879
Stella Mathilda (died at 13 yrs)	Mar. 16, 1881
Frank Mark Schwartz	Dec. 11, 1882
Maria Catherine Schwartz	Mar. 11, 1885
Wilhelm Loren Schwartz	Jun. 10, 1886
Ida Josephine Schwartz	Feb. 27, 1889
Anna Gertrude Schwartz	Jan. 20, 1894
Sophia Grace Schwartz	May 19, 1896

Aalderk married Marth Wells and had three children:

Wilhelmina Schwartz
Clara Schwartz
Herman Schwartz

Christina Louise married John E. Burke and had five children:

Ruth V. Burke
Maurice H. Burke
Edward F. Burke
John R. Burke
Arthur W. Burke

John Frederick married Anna Bettenbrock and had three children

John (Junior) Schwartz
Walter Schwartz
Grace Schwartz

Frank Mark married Anna Maurer and had three children:

Clarence Emil Schwartz
Loren Schwartz
Howard Schwartz

Maria Catherine married Stephen Walker and had three children:
William Walker
Floyd Walker
Clara Lucille Walker

Wilhelm (Bill) never married

Ida Josephine (Edith) married Otis Wright and had no children

Anna Gertrude married Charles Leeth and had five children:
Violet Leeth
Richard Leeth
Margaret Leeth
Howard Leeth
Arthur Leeth

Sophia Grace married William Seeling and had five children:
Charles Leeth
Harold Seeling
Maurice Seeling
Doris Seeling
Arthur Seeling

Wilhelmina Caroline Boelsums, the other daughter of Aalderk E. Boelsums was born in 1863 in Terre Haute, Indiana and married Henry C. Nott of Freeport, Illinois, in June 1886 in the old Zion Church, (page 164 church record). The Rev. Dr. Henry C. Nott and his wife moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he had the enviable record of having served one congregation for fifty-four (54) years; the Grace Reformed Church. This is a record according to the "Believe It or Not" by Ripley, who over the radio announced that Dr. Nott had served one and only one congregation in his 54 years in the ministry. To Rev. and Mrs. Nott were born three children:

Ruth Nott --- Jan. 8, 1888
Helen Nott - Dec. 4, 1892
Hermann Nott Apr. 20, 1896

Ruth Nott never married. Her field was music and teaching and participating in church work.

Helen Nott never married. She like her sister and brother was outstanding in music. She was a teacher and attended church meetings in different parts of the country.

Hermann Nott married Florence Wedemeyer in 1930 and had three children:
Carol Nott
David Nott
Mary Nott

John C. Boelsums, the only son of Aalderk and Maria Boelsums was born in 1858 in Terre Haute, Indiana. He graduated from Elder College of Tiffin, Ohio in the class of 1881 and was

preparing for the ministry when he was stricken ill and died the following year, 1882 on February 2nd at the age of 24. He was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Terre Haute where his sister Maria Schwartz and her husband Mark were to be buried later on.

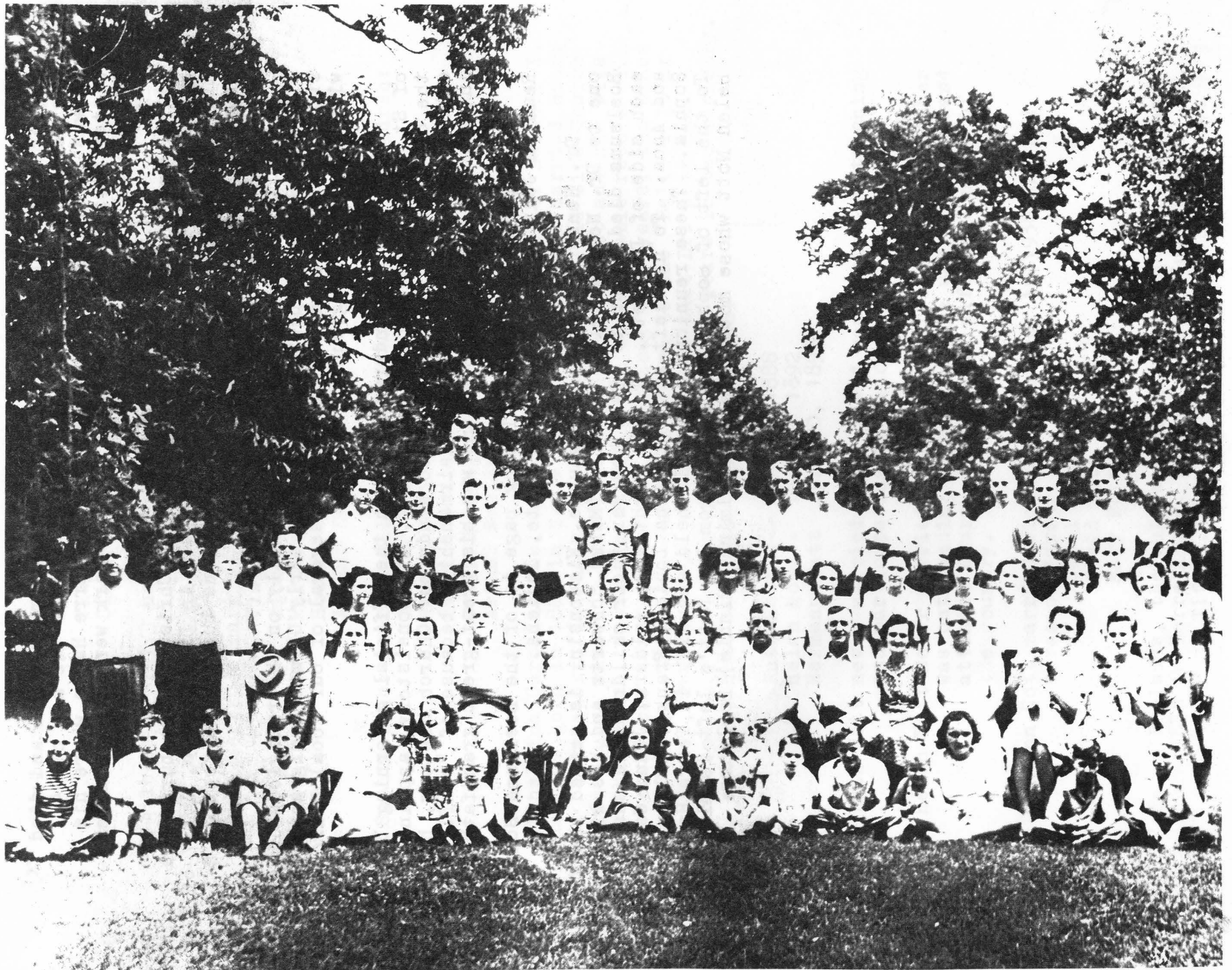
Bruno Boelsums and his wife Maria Christina are buried in the same cemetery but in the south part in Division 26, lot 7 of Block 1. This lot has a marble tombstone but at the foot is a granite and more permanent stone.

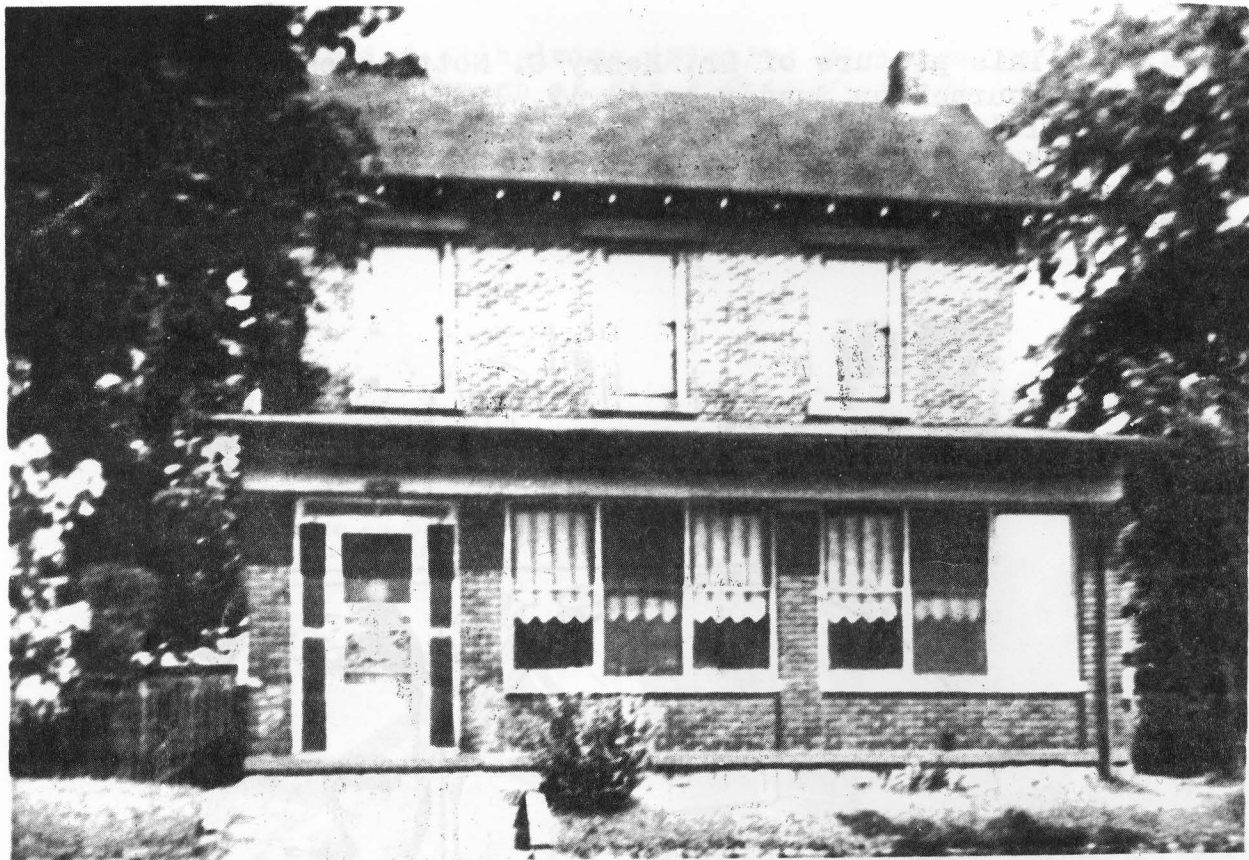
The influence of the Boelsums family on the religious life of Terre Haute, especially among the early German immigrants, is still noticeable in the history of several of our local churches with a German background.

Thus, one can understand, when the official governing body of St. Mark United Church of Christ, the Consistory, appointed the chairman of the Committee to study our Church history, he asked to be relieved of the chairmanship, because of "conflicting interests". Bruno J. Boelsums was his great-great grandfather.

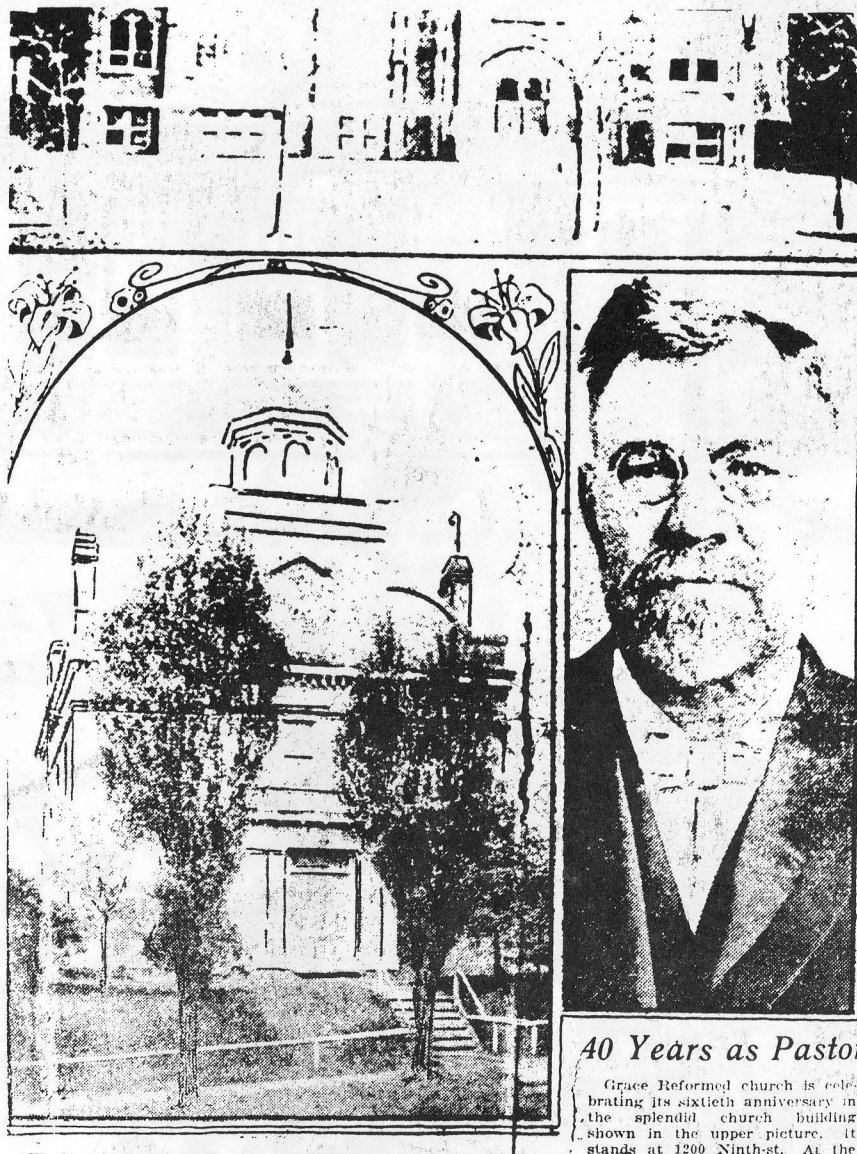
The picture on the following page is of the Boelsums-Schwartz Reunion July 19, 1942 at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Dr. Henry C. Nott of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is seated the fifth one to Dr. Nott's left. Maurice (Mark) Schwartz and his wife Mary Boelsums died prior to 1942, however their children are seated on each side of Dr. Nott. To his right are, Aalderk, John, Catherine and Anna. To his left are Christina Louise, Frank, William and Sophia. These reunions are still held annually in Terre Haute. To the left of Sophia and fifth from Dr. Nott's left is his daughter Helen Nott whose mother was wilhelmina (Minnie) Boelsums.





This picture of Dr. Henry C. Nott appeared in the Milwaukee Journal on Sunday April 19, 1925 and shows the old Church building where Dr. Nott began his 54-year long ministry. Part of the new Church building is shown in the upper part of the picture. A full picture of the Grace Reformed Church is shown on page 29



40 Years as Pastor

Grace Reformed church is celebrating its sixtieth anniversary in the splendid church building shown in the upper picture. It stands at 1200 Ninth-st. At the same time, the Rev. Henry C. Nott

Lightning Strikes Siren

The picture at top of page 27 is of the Aalderk Boelsums home at the junction of Vincennes and Carlisle Roads (1st & Prairie-ton) built of brick made in the Boelsums' brick yard which was located between Vincennes Road (Prairie-ton Road) and the Wabash River at Hulman St.

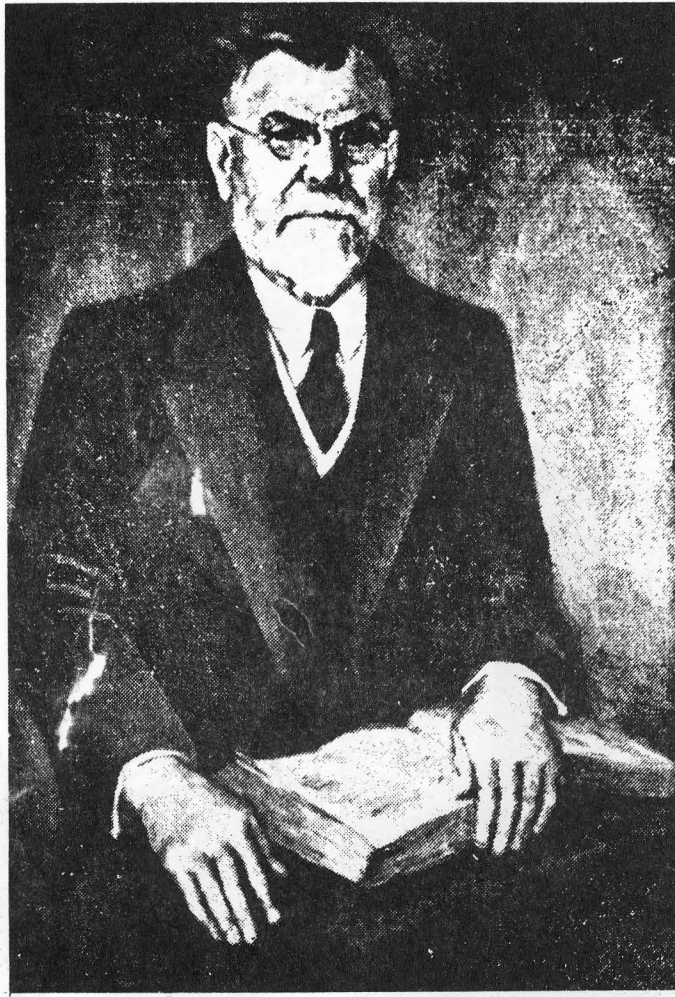
At bottom of page is the home and farm at Waverly, Ohio for which Boelsums's daughter and husband traded for in 1908. From left to right in lower picture are-Maria (Mary) C. Boelsums Schwartz, son-William, daughters Sophia and Anna and husband Maurice (Mark). This log cabin burned in 1910 and was replaced by a two-story frame house.

Dr. Nott married Wilhelmina (Minnie) Boelsums in Terre Haute at the Zion Reformed Church at 8th & Ohio Streets.

Below is picture of the Grace Reformed Church in Milwaukee, where Dr. Nott spent 54 years with the same congregation. The Nott's home was the parsonage which is shown to the right of the church.



Pastor Gets a Portrait



DR. HENRY C. NOTT, who is about to retire from active preaching and pastoral work at Grace Reformed church, after a 54 year ministry, is the subject of this portrait in oil by Joan Beringer of Wauwatosa. It was exhibited earlier this month at the City club.



"Thanks be to God
Who giveth us the victory
Through Jesus Christ
Our Lord"

Wilhelmina Boelsums Nott

Mr. Nott—Always Working



HERMANN A. NOTT is shown here studying a musical score. Mr. Nott is probably the busiest musician in Wisconsin. He started taking piano lessons from his father, the Rev. Henry C. Nott, as a child and at 13 was playing the organ in his father's church. Now the elder Nott is happy to serve in a choral society under his son.

—Journal Staff

Hermann Alderk Nott was the son of Wilhelmina (Minnie) Nott. She was the daughter of Alderk E. Boelsums and the granddaughter of Bruno J. Boelsums. Hermann, with his father, Dr. Henry C. Nott, was a member of the Arion Musical Club. All the Notts remain true to the Boelsums tradition in their relation to the religious life of the community.

Kurzgefaßte Geschichte der Gemeinde.



Im Jahre 1841 kam aus Ostfriesland der Reformierte Bruno Voelsums, — seiner Güter durch die See, seiner Frau durch den Tod beraubt, — mit seinen drei erwachsenen Söhnen hier in Terre Haute an. Obwohl die Stadt bereits im Jahre 1816 ausgelegt wurde, kamen im Jahre 1830 die ersten Deutschen, etwa sechs Familien, hierher. Unsere ostfriesischen Einwanderer richteten eine Ziegelbrennerei auf, und fanden genügend Beschäftigung. Im Jahre 1846 kehrte der ältere Voelsums nach der alten Heimat zurück, um seine drei Töchter ebenfalls nach Amerika zu bringen. Dort angekommen, fand er die Töchter alle verheiratet. Zwei derselben an lutherische Schulmeister. Nach längerem Reden und Bereden, und nachdem er in einer dortigen Zeitung einen Aufruf, mit nach der neuen Welt zu gehen, veröffentlicht hatte, entschlossen sich mehrere die Reise mit Voelsums zu unternehmen. Unter den zweieundzwanzig Personen, die sich anboten nach Amerika zu gehen, befanden sich die zwei Schullehrer. Wenn ein Ort mehr als ein anderer dazu angetan ist die religiösen Gefühle zum Ausdruck zu bringen, so ist es die hohe See. Vom Kapitän der „Victoria“, auf welchem sie einschifften, ermuntert, leiteten diese Schulmeister oft gottesdienstliche Versammlungen. Auf der langen, gefährvollen Reise wurde auch der Entschluß gefaßt in der neuen Heimat ein kirchliches Leben mit deutschen Gottesdiensten zu führen, denn eine deutsche Kirche existierte in Terre Haute damals noch nicht. Kurz vor den Feiertagen glücklich hier angekommen, die häusliche Einrichtung notdürftig besorgt, ersuchten unsere frisch Eingewanderten, mit den bereits hier wohnhaften Deutschen, den einen der Lehrer, M. S. Lüden, den Weihnachtsgottesdienst zu leiten. Die an dieser Feier Beteiligten beschloßen auch fernerhin unter seiner Leitung sonntäglich religiöse Versammlungen zu halten.

Wegen der geringen Zahl der Deutschen, und weil das ehliche Verhältnis zwischen den lutherischen Schulmeistern und den reformierten Töchtern Voelsums ein so glückliches war, lag der Gedanke nahe, nur eine vereinigte protestantische Gemeinde zu gründen. Und so kam es, daß im Jahre 1847

„Vereinigte deutsche evangelisch lutherische und reformierte Gemeinde von Terre Haute, Indiana“

gegründet ward. Schulmeister Lüden, der später von der Indianapolis Synode (lutherisch) ordiniert, war Leiter und Prediger der Gemeinde. Er verfaßte im Jahre 1848. die erste Gemeindeordnung. Amtshandlungen verrichtete er bis Oktober 1851. Dieselben sind eingetragen in das älteste der noch vorhandenen Kirchenbücher, im Besitz der lutherischen Zimmerns Gemeinde. Ihm folgte, wahrscheinlich ausgangs 1851, als Prediger an der Gemeinde

Pfr. Küster (lutherisch).

Die Gottesdienste wurden in der „Townhall“ gehalten. Im November 1851 wurde eine etwas ausführlichere Gemeindeordnung angenommen, aber erst im Oktober 1854, in das älteste Kirchenbuch, welches die reformierte Gemeinde besitzt, eingetragen, und von folgenden dreieundzwanzig Personen eigenhändig unterschrieben:

Johann Nikolaus Sachs und Ehefrau.

Malder C. Voelsums und Ehefrau Maria-Christine.

Ernst-Friedrich Altfriede und Ehefrau Louise.

Nichert H. Frerichs und Ehefrau Diste.

Henry Harting.

Georg Feick.

John Zimmermann.

Simon Reese und Ehefrau Elise.

Heinrich Pfleging und Ehefrau Johanna.

Johannes Schwarz.

Ernst Meißel und Ehefrau Wilhelmine.

John A. Sachs.

Heinrich Pfleging, Jr.

Georg Stöhr und Ehefrau Margarethe.

Johann Preißer.

Vorkehrungen zur Errichtung einer Kirche wurden getroffen. Ehe dieselbe vollendet, ausgangs 1853, folgte Pfr. Küster dem Ruf einer Gemeinde in Indianapolis. Sein Nachfolger war

Pfr. John F. Lantensläger (lutherisch).

Nach der Gemeindeordnung konnte die Gemeinde irgend einen Prediger, gleichviel ob er zu einer Synode gehörte oder nicht, erwählen. Derselbe mußte jedoch durch glaubwürdige Zeugnisse über seinen Beruf und Charakter sich ausweisen können, und von der lutherischen oder reformierten Kirche

This is an English translation of the preceeding page of German recorded in the Zion Church Souvenir Booklet.

This translation was by Miss Anna Froeb, a teacher in the Terre Haute City Schools and Mr. Herman Hemmrich, a member of St. Mark United Church of Christ.

In the year 1841 there came from Eastfriesland to Terre Haute Bruno Boelsums, a member of the Reformed Church. With him were his three grown sons. He had lost his possessions at sea and his wife by death. Although Terre Haute was settled in 1816, it wasn't till 1830 that the first German families arrived, six in number. These immigrants from Eastfriesland built kilns for burning bricks and so had plenty of employment,

In 1846 the senior Boelsums returned to his old home for his three daughters. Arriving he found they had all married, two of them Lutheran schoolteachers. After much discussion pro and con and after having made an appeal through the local newspaper for persons to go to America with him, twenty-two joined him, the two schoolteachers were among them.

If there is any one place more than any other to cause expression of our religious feelings, it is the high sea. Encouraged by the captain of their ship the "Victoria", the two schoolmasters often led worship services. During the long and dangerous journey, these persons also passed a resolution that in their new home they would establish German worship services to help them in their Christian living. At this time there was no German Church in Terre Haute.

Having arrived safely in Terre Haute shortly before the Christmas season and having established their homes, they asked the Germans already here to join with them in the Christmas worship service to be led by a resident teacher A. H. Lücken. Those who attended this service decided to hold religious services each Sunday with Mr. Lücken as leader.

Because of the small number of Germans and because the matrimonial lives of the Boelsums' daughters and the Lutheran schoolmasters were so congenial, it gave rise to the thought to establish just one German Protestant Church. So in the year 1847 there was established or founded the "United German Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Congregation" in Terre Haute, Indiana. Schoolmaster Lücken, who later was ordained by the Indianapolis Synod was the leader and minister or pastor of the congregation.

In 1848 he drew up the first ordinances or rules governing the congregation. He continued to serve the congregation till October 1851. A record of his services is recorded in the oldest of the available church books now in possession of the Immanuel Lutheran Church 6½ and Poplar Streets, Terre Haute, Indiana.

Following Rev. A. H. Lucken, one other Lutheran pastor, Rev. Kuester served the congregation. Services were held in the "Town Hall".

In 1851 the congregation adopted ordinances or rules that were more adaptable to the needs of the congregation. These rules, however, were not recorded in the oldest church book in possession of the Reformed Church till October 1854 and subscribed to and signed by the following 23 persons.

John Nikolas Sachs and wife

Aalderk C. Boelsums and wife Maria Christine

Ernst Friedrich Altekruise and wife Louise

Richert U. Frerichs and wife Hiske

Henry Harting

Georg Feick

John Zimmermann

Simon Reese and wife Elise

Johannes Schwarz

Ernst Meiszel and wife Wilhelmine

John A. Sacks

Heinrich Pfleging Jr.

Georg Stöhr and wife Margarethe

John Preiszer

Plans for the erection of a church building were under consideration but before they were completed at the close of 1853, Rev. Kuester accepted a call from a congregation in Indianapolis.

To the above list of names add:

Heinrich Pfleging and wife Johanna

Arrow points to Ditzum, Germany

